

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter contained in claims 4-5, 7-8, 11, and 13, and indication of allowable subject matter contained in claim 3.

Claims 1-2, 6, 9-10, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Akiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,426). Claims 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiyama, and further in view of Shigeta (U.S. Patent No. 6,972,777). In response, Applicants amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and therefore request withdrawal of the §§102/103 rejections.

Claims 12 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiyama. Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiyama, and further in view of Shigeta. In response, Applicants amended claim 12 to generally include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and respectfully traverse the rejection as it applies to the amended claim. As discussed under item 8 of the outstanding Office Action, a difference between the prior art and the instant application is that a magnitude of the voltage applied for the (n+1)th time is not less than a magnitude of a voltage of the liquid crystal material after application of an nth application of voltage. For this reason, withdrawal of the §§103 rejections of claim 12 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
Joseph P. Fox
Registration No. 41,760

May 14, 2007
300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978